Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SSM-03 /102 W

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R 021149Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6860

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 11065

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EG UR US XF

SUBJ: SADAT INTERVIEW: AL'USBU' AL-'ARABI

1. CAIRO PRESS JULY 2 FEATURES INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SADAT JUNE 28 TO LEBANESE WEEKLY AL-'USBU' AL-'ARABI. HIGHLIGHTS:

(A) RELATIONS WITH USSR FROZEN. FAHMY VISIT TO MOSCOW JUNE 8-9 RESULTED IN "NO PROGRESS" TOWARD SETTLING SPARE PARTS, ARMS REPLACEMENT AND DEBT RESCHEDULING ISSUES. SOVIETS HAD SUGGESTED MEETING BE HELD. FAHMY DID NOT DECIDE TO GO BECAUSE OF LIKUD VICTORY, NOR DID HIS TRIP REPRESENT EGYPTIAN "PLAYING OF THE AMERICAN/SOVIET CARD". (COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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" AMERICAN/SOVIET CARD" IS SUCH CRYPTIC PHRASE THAT WE CAN ONLY GUES SADAT DENYING SOMETIME HEARD ALLEGATION EGYPT SEEKING PLAY USSR OFF AGAINST USG.) (B) PEACE PRINCIPLES: SADAT LISTED AS EGYPT'S FUNDAEMENTAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS; (1) NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS (SECURE BORDERS ARE FLEXIBLE ISRAELI PRETEXT INTENDED CONCEAL ISRAELI

EXPANSIONISM); (2) TERMED OPEN BORDERS AND DIP-LOMATIC/COMMERCIAL EXHCANGES MERELY "NEW LANDMINES ON ROAD TO PEACE"; (3) INSISTED WEST BANK/GAZA STATE BE OFFICIALLY LINKED WITH JORDAN; (4) STRESSED THATWITHOUT PROPER PREPARATION MEPC MIGHT MEET WITHOUT RESULT FOR MANY YEARS; (5) REITERATED VIEW THAT LIKUD VICTORY CHANGES NO FACTS SINCE SETTLEMENT DEPENDS ON USG, WHICH IS REPSONSIBLE FOR AREA PEACE AND IS NOT " MERE CATALYST"; (6) INSISTED IRAEL HAS MANUFACTURED NUCLEAR BOMB, BUT THIS HAD MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN MILITARY SIGNIFIANCE; AND (7) ISRAEL SEEKS PRO-CRASTINATE ON PEACE PROCESS UNTIL WORLD FINDS SUTSTITUTE FOR ARAB OIL. (C) PALESTINE. PRESIDENT CALLED AGAIN FOR PAL-ESTINIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, " A VITAL STEP". (COMMENT: RECENTLY, FATAH LEADER KHALID AL-HASAN REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED IN TOKYO THAT SUCH GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED IN CAIRO BY END 1977 -- CAIRO 10642). (C) LEBANON. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HE PREAPARED ATTEND SAUDI/EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN/KUWAITI SUMMIT CON-FRERENCE IN LEBANON TOGETHER WITH PRES SARKIS AND ALL (LEBANESE) PARTIES TO DISPUTE. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD ONCE SAID HE WOULD NEVER MEET CHAMOUN, HE WOULD DO SO NOW IF IT WOULD FURTHER SECURITY OF LEBANON. AS IN PAST, HE DECLARED CONFIDENTIAL.

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PALESTINIANS ARE GUEST IN LEBANON UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN STATE.

(E) AFRICA. GREAT POWERS MUST KEEP HANDS OFF AFRICA. EGYPT SUPPORTS SUDAN UNCONDITIONALLY. SOVIET ARMS FLOWING "DANGEROUSLY" INTO ETHIOPIA IN PREPARATION FOR INVASION OF SOUTHERN SUDAN ALONG ANGOLAN LINES. RED SEA WILL REMAIN "ARAB LAKE" WHETHER OTHERS LIKE IT OR NOT.

- 2. COMMENT: SADAT'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FAHMY TRIP TO MOSCOW WAS FAILUREIS SIGNIFICANT, THOUGH WE DETECT NO SUDDEN RISE OF ANTI-SOVIET COMMENTARY SO FAR.
- 3. SADAT'S CHARACTERIZATION OF SUCH NORMALIZATION FACTORS AS OPEN BORDERS AND DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE AS "LANDMINES ON ROAD TO PEACE" IS HARDLY HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT FLAT TURNDOWN. EGYPTIANS, LIKE OTHER ARABS, STILL FIND CONCEPT OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, AS A PRIMARY FACTOR OF A ME PEACE SETTLEMENT HARD TO STOMACH AND VIEW IT AS ISRAELI POLY DIVERT ATTENTION FROM

MAIN ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN STATE. WORTH RECALLING, HOWEVER, THAT AT END HIS LAST WASHINGTON VIST, SADAT TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE SOME SORT OF NORMALIZATION MIGHT TAKE PLACE "WITHIN FIVE YEARS" AFTER PEACE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED. THIS WAS ALREADY AN ADVANCE OF HIS PREVIOUS POSITION, BUT GREAT DEAL MORE PROGRESS CLEARLY NEEDED ON THIS POINT IF ME PEACE EFFORT IS TO MOVE FORWARD.

 ${\tt 4.}$ SEE SEPTEL FOR ANALYSIS OF SADAT'S REMARKS ON LEBANON.

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